

What is claimed is:

1 1. A web tuner apparatus comprising:
 2 a processor;
 3 a memory;
 4 a first personal information store, said first personal information store
 5 comprising at least one of a plurality of relationships between a user definable identifier
 6 and a media source;
 7 a remotable media control device, with which media to receive may be
 8 selected, and with which said plurality of relationships between a user definable identifier
 9 and a media source is input;
 10 a display, operable to provide information about media sources;
 11 at least one receiver, operable to receive at least one of a plurality of types
 12 of media;
 13 a switch, operable to select one of said at least one of a plurality of types
 14 of media received by said at least one receiver; and
 15 an output interface, said output interface providing a media output selected
 16 by said switch;
 17 wherein media are selected via a user interface that receives input of a
 18 selection of a media stream to be played from said media to receive, said selection made
 19 by selecting a user definable identifier for a media source of said media stream to be
 20 played, said user definable identifier being stored in said first personal information store,
 21 and thereupon commanding said switch to select said media stream to be played from
 22 among said at least one of a plurality of types of media received by said at least one
 23 receiver; wherein said media stream to be played is output via said output interface.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said types of media include at
 2 least one selected from cable television, television broadcast, radio broadcast, world wide
 3 web, and Internet based information.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of a plurality of
 2 relationships between a user definable identifier and a media source comprises a logical
 3 channel table.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user interface comprises a
2 channel service user interface for a plurality of media types, wherein said sources of
3 media are mapped into logical channel values.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein input requests received from
2 said remotable media control device are processed by a main controller program process
3 operatively disposed in said memory, said main controller program process providing
4 inputs to select media to a media selector program process and inputs to customize
5 channel information to a channel customize program process.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a network interface, said network interface providing connectivity to a
3 server.

1 7. A web station apparatus comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a memory;
4 a display;
5 an input device;
6 a server;
7 a subscriber URL information store, said a subscriber URL information
8 store comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, said categories
9 providing organization for identifiers of media content; and
10 a network interface, said network interface providing connectivity to an
11 Internet and enabling said web station apparatus to be accessible by a web tuner
12 apparatus;
13 wherein media is accessible by commanding said server to search said
14 hierarchical categories in said subscriber URL information store, to find media having
15 content of interest, said content categorization performed using an interface provided by
16 said web tuner.

1 8. The web station apparatus of claim 7, wherein said media further
2 comprises media of disparate types, wherein said types of media include at least one
3 selected from cable television, television broadcast, radio broadcast, world wide web, and
4 Internet based information.

1 9. The web station apparatus of claim 7, wherein said subscriber URL
2 information store further comprises at least one of a plurality of relational categories that
3 organize said media content.

1 10. The web station apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a personal
2 channel information store, wherein a personal channel table stored in said web tuner is
3 mirrored in said web station database, enabling users to reference said channel table from
4 remote locations.

1 11. A method for accessing media, said method comprising:
2 retrieving at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source of
3 media streams to be played;
4 displaying said at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source
5 of media streams to be played;
6 selecting via a user interface a media stream to be played from at least one
7 of a plurality of media to receive, said selecting performed by selecting one from said at
8 least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source of media streams to be played;
9 commanding a switch to select said media stream to be played from among
10 said at least one of a plurality of types of media received by at least one receiver; and
11 outputting said media stream to be played via an output interface.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said identifiers comprise user
2 definable identifiers, said user definable identifiers being stored in a first personal
3 information store.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
2 forwarding from a first location a copy of said first personal information
3 store to a server;
4 creating at said server a copy of said first personal information store; and
5 accessing said copy of said first personal information store to retrieve said
6 at least one of a plurality of user definable identifiers for a media source of media streams
7 to be played from a second location at a later time.

1 14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

2 storing a user definable identifier for a media source of a media stream
3 being played currently, said user definable identifier being stored in a first personal
4 information store.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein said identifiers are stored in a
2 subscriber URL information store.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2 storing an identifier for a media source, said identifier being stored in a
3 subscriber URL information store, said subscriber URL information store comprising at
4 least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, said categories providing organization
5 for identifiers of media content.

1 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2 selecting via a user interface a related media stream to be played, said
3 related media stream to be played having content related to said media stream to be
4 played, said selecting performed by selecting one from at least one of a plurality of URL
5 identifiers for said media stream to be played; and thereupon selecting a second URL
6 identifier corresponding to said related media stream to be played.

1 18. The method of claim 11, wherein said media further comprises
2 media of disparate types, wherein said types of media include at least one selected from
3 cable television, television broadcast, radio broadcast, world wide web, and Internet
4 based information.

1 19. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
2 receiving an identity of a user; and
3 providing a plurality of user definable identifiers for said user.

1 20. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 scanning an input source for at least one of a plurality of receivable
3 television channels;
4 mapping said at least one of a plurality of receivable television channels to
5 at least one of a plurality of identifiers;
6 scanning an input source for at least one of a plurality of receivable radio
7 frequencies;

8 mapping said at least one of a plurality of receivable radio frequencies to
9 at least one of a plurality of identifiers;

10 scanning an input source for at least one of a plurality of internet based
11 media sources; and

12 mapping said at least one of a plurality of internet based media sources to
13 at least one of a plurality of identifiers.

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